

JAMES S. CAMPBELL.

[To accompany Bill H. R. No. 298.]

MARCH 8, 1860.

Mr. DUELL, from the Committee on Revolutionary Claims, made the following

### REPORT.

*The Committee on Revolutionary Claims, to whom was referred the petition of James S. Campbell, report:*

The petitioner is the son of Colonel Samuel Campbell, late of Otsego county and State of New York, and the assignee of the claim set forth in his said petition.

The petitioner asks indemnification from Congress for certain losses sustained by Colonel Campbell, his father, arising out of the destruction of his buildings and property by the Tories and Indians during the revolutionary war.

The papers accompanying the petition establish the following facts:

That, at the commencement of the revolution, Colonel Campbell, residing in Otsego county aforesaid, then a remote and unprotected frontier, zealously espoused the cause and asserted the rights of the colonies, and by his prominent exertions and activity rendered himself obnoxious to the English partisans and their leaders, Brandt and Butler; that, his residence being about midway between the headwaters of the Susquehanna and Mohawk rivers, and on the principal path connecting the valleys of said rivers, the said Samuel Campbell was requested and urged by the constituted authorities of New York to remain upon the frontier, fortify his house, and protect and defend the settlement; that, by reason of said request and solicitation by the government, the said Campbell did remain, and, at his own expense, fortified his house and premises by surrounding them with a substantial breastwork, making the doors and windows bullet-proof, and erecting two block-houses in the angles of the enclosure; that he received into his house thus fortified all the surrounding families, protecting them from the enemy and their savage allies during the years 1777 and 1778; that the government furnished troops to defend this exposed outpost, consisting of the militia from New York a portion of the time, and then by soldiers raised by the authority of said State, known by the name of *rangers*; and the government also furnished supplies for the use of the garrison; that on the 11th day of

November, 1778, while Colonel Campbell was absent to the Mohawk valley on business as a "committee man" of his district, a large party of tories and Indians, (about seven hundred,) under command of the notorious Brandt and Butler, attacked and destroyed the fortified dwelling and premises of the said Campbell, taking and carrying away captives his wife and four of his children, and retaining them until the year 1780; that the enemy plundered the house and premises of everything valuable, drove away his horses and cattle, and then set fire to and destroyed his house and two barns filled with hay and grain; that the value of the property thus destroyed was not less than \$1,500.

In the opinion of your committee the claim of the petitioner to the extent above specified is peculiarly meritorious and strictly legal, and should be promptly allowed and paid by Congress.

And your committee cannot omit to notice the signal patriotic services of the said Samuel Campbell, and the imminent perils and protracted sufferings of himself and family during those times that "tried men's souls," and for which no pecuniary remuneration has ever been or can be granted by Congress.

The said Colonel Campbell was a major in Colonel Cox's regiment, which marched under General Herkimer to the relief of Fort Stanwix when besieged by the army of St. Leger. He was in the battle of Oriskany, in which his brother was killed; and General Herkimer being wounded, and Colonel Cox killed, the command devolved upon him, where he fought with signal bravery, and led off the troops with distinguished ability. He volunteered under General Gates to oppose the progress of the army under Burgoyne, and during the entire period of the revolution he was an active, prominent, unwavering patriot. His wife and four children were two years in captivity among the Indians, the petitioner being one of them; during which period the said Samuel Campbell was employed at Fort Stanwix among the corps of artificers.

In conclusion, your committee would state, that for all the services and losses of the said Samuel Campbell and his family—for his fortifying his own house at the request of government, and maintaining a garrison at the same—for his services as an officer in the revolution—for the destruction of his premises and property while the same was a governmental post and deposit, and destroyed in consequence thereof—for these and other services and losses no compensation whatever has been rendered from the State of New York, the old confederation, or the federal government; and no reward, pension, or privilege of any kind has ever been given to or bestowed upon the said Samuel Campbell or upon any of his posterity.

Such patriotic and untiring public services and sacrifices seemed to challenge a passing notice and acknowledgment from the committee, although only partial and limited remuneration can be recommended therefor, viz: remuneration for the destruction of the buildings and property of the said Samuel Campbell by the public enemy on the 11th day of November, 1778, being a military post or deposit at the time, and destroyed in consequence thereof.

The committee report the accompanying bill, and recommend its passage.